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REPORT NO.

1. When, in the spring of 1948, the Berlin Landesverband of the CDU broke with the zonal organization of the party and decided to expel members who took part in the Volkskongress or Volksrat, the expelled members and others who wished to maintain the link with the zonal CDU found themselves isolated from any organized party work. A plan was considered for the formation of an "Ortsgruppe Hauptgeschäftsstelle" immediately under the party executive committee; this plan might have kept the contact with at least some circles in the Landesverband, and was believed to have the approval of Karlshorst. However, an extremist wing, represented by Arnold Gohr, Dr. Josef Kofler, Carl Leo Buttke, and Dr. Magdalene Stark-Wintersieg, obtained the support of the Central Komendatura in its insistence upon establishing a new and separate "Landesverband" (originally called "Arbeitskreis").

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Comment: It is noteworthy that the four persons named are the CDU representatives in the illegal eastern Magistrat appointed on 30 November.)

2. Georg Dertinger had attempted to avoid this development, mainly because he regarded its agitators as "screwballs" (schräge Vögel), and succeeded in getting Dr. Helmut Brandt installed as chairman of the Arbeitskreis, rather than one of the group who originated it. Buttke had set himself up as office manager at the party headquarters, and it was with some difficulty that Dertinger removed him and replaced him with a man of his own choice. For a number of weeks the zonal headquarters (Hauptgeschäftsstelle) of the party, represented by Dertinger, tried to discourage the Arbeitskreis by refusing to grant it any financial assistance. Gohr and his associates made frequent complaints to the [REDACTED] demanding that Dertinger's [REDACTED]
3. Few of the workers at the zonal party headquarters have joined the eastern (Brandt) Landesverband. It attempted, on one occasion when Dertinger was out of town, to organize a Betriebsgruppe at the headquarters, but met with little response; Dertinger, on his return, countered by founding a Betriebsgruppe under the executive committee (as originally planned, see para. 1 above). After the first of [REDACTED]

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~~the editor-in-chief of Der Fortschritt.~~
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4. Before starting on his trip to Russia, Dertinger urged Brandt to eliminate the opposition group from the Landesverband during his absence. Brandt's attempt to comply led to a vigorous debate at the Central Komendatura on 11 November, in which Soviet officers participated with Brandt, Gohr, Kofler, and Preikschar. A day or two later the Russians gave their consent to the removal of Gohr, Kofler, and Buttke from party affairs. Source imagines that the Russians hope by way of Dertinger to re-establish friendly relations with the western (legal) Landesverband headed by Dr. "alter Schreiber; as evidence pointing in this direction he observes that Schreiber and his wife were invited to the reception given by Ambassador Semenov on 7 November. (They did not attend the reception.)

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